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1846





Peter, Robert

1888
STATEMENTS

OF

by Robert Peter
FACTS

IN

RELATION TO THE EXPULSION

OF

JAMES C. CROSS,

FROM

TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY.

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PREFACE.

It is proper to apprise the reader, that the following STATEMENTS OF FACTS were severally read in the hearing of the persons whose signatures they bear, and approved by all, as setting forth the true state of the case. The Medical profession may rest satisfied, that the exhibition herein made, is based on irrefutable testimony. It is to be regretted that the whole was not made public two years ago. The only reason why the other members of our Faculty could not join in these statements, is, that they were appointed subsequently to the periods referred to.

Film No. 6125 1843

STATEMENTS OF FACTS.

FROM PROFESSOR DUDLEY.

In 1837, the Trustees of Transylvania University were called upon to fill certain vacant chairs in the Medical Department of the Institution. A short time previous to that period, Dr. Cross began to practice upon the religious credulity of our society, in order to wipe away the odious stains upon a character he had formed for himself, and to open thereby a new career to foul ambition. In the exercise of this piece of stratagem, he succeeded so far as to secure the confidence of the Rev. N. H. HALL, one of the clergymen of our city, and a Trustee of Transylvania University.

Actuated by none other than honorable motives, Parson Hall presented the name of Dr. Cross to fill one of the vacant Professorships in the Medical School, and urged his appointment. With those of the individual members of the Medical Faculty who were opposed to his introduction into the school; also with Mr. Gratz and other members of the Board of Trustees, the Rev. Mr. Hall made every effort with a view to conciliation and union upon Dr. Cross; pledging himself at the time to Mr. Gratz and other members of the Board of Trustees, that he (Parson Hall) would be among the first in moving for the expulsion of Dr. Cross whenever he should prove himself unworthy of his place. Upon the strength of Parson Hall's influence, and his pledge given, the then existing Faculty nominated the said Cross to the Board of Trustees, and he was elected. Within a few days past, the Rev. gentleman, at my door, recalled to my mind the above particulars regarding the introduction of Dr. Cross into the school; nor is it without authority, that this allusion is made to the facts in the case.

The ceremony of installation was scarcely concluded before reasons for regret at his admission into the school began to accumulate: and when the odiousness of his conduct admitted no longer of toleration, and his removal became an imperative duty, the action of the Board of Trustees was *unanimous* in dissolving the connexion,—a unanimity well calculated to check the career of vice, and also to protect society against the arts and devices of the Pretender.

I have always turned with sentiments of disgust and abhorrence from the conduct and character of this individual: and neither *before*, nor *during* his connexion with the school, have my feelings of self-respect allowed me, on any occasion, to enter his dwelling as an associate.

In the last act of the Medical Faculty, preparatory to his removal from the school, I can claim neither *honor* nor *participation*. Without my knowledge, my colleagues consulted together, and united in sentiment on the necessity of the measure. When the result of their consultation was communicated to me, I need scarcely add, that the measure not only had my approbation, but received my humble, yet firm support.

SEPTEMBER 1st. 1846.

B. W. DUDLEY.

FROM PROFESSOR MITCHELL.

On my return from the East, after an absence of several months, I found a pamphlet in circulation, the production of an expelled Professor and his satellites, which, for wilful falsehood and misrepresentation, has never been equalled. It is not my purpose to make a formal reply to that mass of moral turpitude, so characteristic of its source; but simply to notice a few points for the information of those who may be inclined to give some sort of credit to the infamous pamphlet.

The allegation that Dr. Dudley originated the requisition to resign, in consequence of which the Ex-Professor ceased to be connected with the school, is false. The proposition came from the late Dr. Richardson, as a means of averting an act of expulsion on the part of the Trustees, which Dr. R. declared to be in contemplation. He urged the plan which was actually adopted, as the least offensive, and at his instance, it was carried out. And in regard to any letter imputed to me touching the *expulsion* of the Professor, (for so his friends called it here), I have only to say, that my written statement of the interviews with Judge Woolley, made at the time, and a note, having the signature of a more distinguished gentleman, fully justify every iota contained in that letter. And lest there should be any misconception on this point, I now aver distinctly, that the Ex-Professor was required to quit the Faculty, and that he *substantially* and *virtually* did employ the instruments referred to, in order to have the Faculty act revoked. As to *how* the agencies were employed, I have nothing to say; it is beyond question, that they were *somehow* made use of, and as notorious that they failed.

We had proofs in abundance, that after his expulsion, he was actively engaged,—while on his political expeditions,—in talking

of his discontinuance with the school as a voluntary act, to avoid the disgrace of sinking with it. In this way, he aimed a blow at its success, and no doubt did it harm. We felt it our duty to correct this impression, by publishing the truth. He *was* compelled to leave; he *imploringly begged* to be retained; and he knows all this well.

The Ex-Professor was a blot and a stain on the school, from the hour of his entrance into it. He had labored to destroy it long before, and hence the efforts made by Professor Short and others, to keep him out. They predicted the results of his identification with it, and they have proved to be wise prophets. All they anticipated, and more, has been realized. On my first interview with him in this city, after my appointment, (in July, 1837), he began to denounce Dr. Dudley, alledging that he possessed an influence to which he was not entitled; that we could bring about a change in this matter, and the first thing to be done, was to divide his double chair. This kind of talk was repeated very frequently before the session commenced, and as it progressed, down to the period of the expected death of Professor Eberle.

When it was announced that Dr. Eberle was no more, the Ex-Professor commenced his secret efforts to procure the vacant chair. And hearing that Dr. Short and myself were named as candidates, he publicly denounced us to the class, as unfit for the place: called on the pupils to discountenance every thing of the sort, alledging that our appointment would disgrace the school, and consequently disgrace its pupils. This, and more, I heard with my own ears, in the Chemical Hall, immediately below the place where this most brotherly harangue was made. The intrigues of this man were carried through the course, and whole weeks passed without any intercourse between him and his colleagues. Often and again, did we wish him out of the school, and I know that Dr. Short will bear me out in the declaration I now make, that he left our school chiefly because of the base conduct of the expelled Professor, during the session of 1837-8. There are facts in abundance to prove, that during the session named, he was perpetually endeavoring to depreciate the labors of his colleagues, and to elevate himself. And as he has seen fit to eulogise his *friend* Dr. Caldwell, let me now say, that Dr. C. visited my house the day after the delivery of the eulogium on Professor Eberle, (the Ex-Professor was the Orator,) and emphatically said, "Sir, if you don't get rid of that fellow, he will blow your school to hell."

The parade of letters to show an intention to *resign*, should have gone back to 1837-8, for this *notorious resigner* was ever and anon talking about resignation. It is well known that he threatened to *resign*, if he was not appointed the successor of Professor Eberle. What said his *friend* of the Louisville Journ-

al, July 26, 1838, as the stereotyped declaration of the Ex-Professor? "if Mitchell were transferred from Chemistry to Theory and Practice, Peter (against whom Cross cherished a most deadly hate,) would be appointed Professor of Chemistry, and then himself and Richardson would RESIGN, and the school would at once be brought to an end!" It was about the same time, that the Louisville Journal declared that the fame of Transylvania did not rest on the high moral chastity of Professor Cross.

It is notorious, here, that in every session from 37-8, this man made a business of *threatening to resign*, in order to accomplish his purposes. Perpetually he was getting up broils in the class, and thereby continuing a desire on the part of the Faculty, to get rid of him. They had abundant evidence, that whatever his influence might have been to draw pupils, his moral turpitude constantly deterred virtuous men from sending their sons to Lexington. In this way, more was lost than gained.

During the session of 37-8, he made it his business to oppose and denounce the teachings of some of his colleagues, before the class, in such manner that all comprehended his design. His real aim was to rob some of their reputation, that he might wear the honors himself. In this way he kept up a constant war against his fellow teachers, and this never ceased while he remained in the school; and as an aid to his plans, he was specially careful, annually, and often in each course, to hold out the threat of *resignation*. I will add, that but for the necessity of a public exposure, and the dislike of troubling the community with our difficulties with this man, he would have been required to leave long ago. We regarded him as a serious hindrance to the success of the school. His drunkenness, as displayed on the rostrum, and in the examinations of candidates, was so ordinary an affair, that many were deeply disgusted with the exhibition. Of his outdoor scandalous course, I need say not a word, for that is history.

There are many facts relating to the session of 1837-8, which might be adduced, to show, the total disqualification of this man, to hold a place in a medical school. He well knew, that his true position was understood from the first month of that session. He feared, as a consequence of his misconduct, that the chair of the Institutes would be vacated, and intimated as much to the late Dr. Richardson. as a reason why he desired the chair of Theory and Practice. It is quite probable, he will deny this, for he is capable of any thing, to gain an end. He will say, I falsify, although he was the author of a most fulsome eulogy on my moral character which appeared in a Lexington paper, in 1838.

Professor Smith, who succeeded Dr. Eberle, was not in the school six weeks, when he complained to more than one of the Faculty, that if Cross were not quieted in his denunciations of him and his teachings, he would not continue in the school. The same thing occurred in respect of Dr. Bartlett, who was denoun-

ced by this man before the audience had left the hall, in which he gave his Inaugural lecture. The denunciations continued for several weeks, when Dr. B. averred, that this conduct must cease, that he was not compelled by his circumstances to remain, and could not, if the Ex-Professor were permitted to act as he had done.

How was it in respect of Dr. Peter? Was not that gentleman on the eve of bringing this man before the Trustees for his scandalous interference with, and depreciation of the Chemical chair? Let him deny this, if he dare.

And as he and his tools have made much ado about Dr. Bush, I may say here, that all the difficulty and objection to Dr. B., that I ever heard of, originated with him, and those under his influence. He has put expressions and sentences in my mouth touching Drs. Dudley and Bush, which were his stereotyped modes of speech, concerning them. They never ceased to be subjects of abuse and detraction by him, while he was a colleague. There never was a movement against Dr. Bush, in the class, as I believe, of which this Faculty troubler was not the author, directly or indirectly. He labored to make Drs. Richardson and myself identical with him, in all he did and said, denunciatory of Drs. Dudley and Bush, for years; and whatever effect his misrepresentations may have made, like the perpetual dropping of water on the rock, I am satisfied, that his aim was to dupe us into his schemes, and to make us responsible for his baseness. He had a deep abiding hatred of those men; and their injury, not the good of the school, was the motive that governed him, and his allies.

There is a small matter which I feel bound to notice. I am charged with correcting proofs of the papers of one of the illustrious compeers of this noted Ex-Professor, and the statement has been doubtless furnished by one who expects his reward. The facts are these:—Before I had entirely ceased to soil my feet by contact with a certain medical office in Lexington, I stopped in now and then, to await the opening of the mail. On one of these occasions, two of the *firm* were perusing a paper, which was blank on the side next to me. One of them observed, it was no secret, and that Dr. M., might as well see it. The paper was handed, its caption noticed, and a gross misprint of a very common word, concerning which I remarked, “that must be an error of the press,” and handed it back, without reading the quarter of the essay. This is what these persons call “correcting the proofs.”

A word or two, as to the importance of the Ex-Professor to the school. A stranger might suppose that *he* was the very soul of the Institution, that it had its being in him; when in truth, his teaching as well as his example was all the while exerting a pernicious influence on the profession. As an evidence, that “*our views and discoveries in medicine,*” as the modest Ex-Professor

was wont to say of his rantings, were of little or no value, and so regarded, there is not an author of any note, who has condescended even to notice them, in this or any other country. His vanity and self-esteem, always in the ascendant, led him to put a value on his teaching which solid and judicious men never realised. Laboring constantly under the monomania of personal superiority, his efforts were incessantly directed to cast every colleague into the shade; and by all sorts of intrigue, to rob his associates of their well-earned reputation. Instead of approving and sustaining his brother professors, it was his glory to detract from their merits, if by so doing he could add to the bulk or splendor of his own imaginary laurels. Were it important to the issue, we might say a little in point, touching the vaunted literary character of the expelled Professor. His *Appeal*, regarded as a literary effort, like most of his essays, would disgrace the simplest sophomore in America.

These statements I make, not as a condescension to notice the "Appeal," as it is called, nor to satisfy those who know all the parties in this controversy. There are some, far away, who are not aware of the true standing of this perpetual *resigner*; and for those, mainly, have I taken the trouble to record facts in this way. The unscrupulous and malignant indecency with which he has assailed me and my colleagues, and the foul gangrenous mass of falsehood called to his aid, in the desperate effort, might justify something more severe on this occasion. But I forbear; and knowing, as well I do, that the last lingering resources of deception are relied on by the junto, I now distinctly advise the friends of the School, that their future efforts will pass unheeded as the less idle wind.

Finally, I beg my friends, here and elsewhere, to bear in mind, the ceaseless turbulence evinced by this man, from the day he entered the School, his perpetual denunciations of Drs. DUDLEY and BUSH, as well as every other colleague that stood in the way of his transcendent greatness; the perpetual moral delinquencies that we were compelled to conceal, as far as possible, and the frequent broils of which he was the author, in and out of the class; and then to decide how far his vituperative abuse of me, because I would not be his tool, is entitled to notice. It is of the essence of his nature, to villify and slander. Not an hour can he pass in tolerable quiet, if some work of detraction and falsehood be not accomplished. To follow him through all his labyrinths of iniquity and defamation, would only be to feed his vanity and strengthen his monomania. I have given myself more trouble concerning his hallucinations than they merited, and now leave him to his fate, with this additional remark, that his "*Appeal*" was really gotten up, not merely as an attack on Transylvania, but as an electioneering document to help the fortunes of a new medical school, of which he is, unhappily, a member. His

collegiate relations have ever been prejudicial to the real welfare of the profession, and they will not cease to be so, until his nature is wholly changed. Far better have we been without him, for the last two years; and our entire course of lectures has been vastly more profitable to the class, than it ever was in the days of his association. And as Professor BUSH has been specially an object of denunciation, it is but just to say, that since he has had exclusive charge of the Anatomical Chair, he has given as general satisfaction as any teacher in the same department in the United States.

In order to the removal of false impressions touching Professor BARTLETT, it is proper to add, that, through a friend, he has actually made the needful arrangements for the residence of his family in Lexington, and that he will be here in a few weeks.

THOS. D. MITCHELL.

Lexington, Sept. 1, 1846.

P. S.—As a sample of the honesty and fair dealing of this Cross, we refer to his denunciations of the Faculty, because they did not select a *Southern* man to fill the late vacant chair; and these too, made in the teeth of his own declaration, that in 1837, he travelled 2000 miles *East*, to hunt Professors. We name, also, the deliberate falsehood, that our class of last session was swollen by pupils furnished from the offices of the numerous applicants for the chair then vacant; when, in truth, but one of the applicants favored us in this way, as the slanderer well knew,

FROM PROFESSOR PETER.

A pamphlet, entitled "*An Appeal to the Medical Profession of the United States, by James Conquest Cross, M. D.*" having been extensively circulated by its author; containing the most impudent and atrocious falsehoods, and an ingenious misrepresentation of the manner in which he left the Transylvania Medical School: and being an effort to injure, to the extent of his abilities, his late colleagues and the school; I have felt it to be my duty to make a brief statement of the facts in the case: that the alumni of the school and those who love truth and abhor turpitude of all kinds, may not be led astray, by the ingenious special pleading and the bold mis-statements of the very unprincipled author. And this task I perform with feelings "more in sorrow than in anger."

On the 25th of May, 1844, after having, for a number of years, borne, with great patience and forbearance, with his numerous obliquities, and having recently been credibly informed of acts of turpitude on his part which outraged every feeling of a christian

community, the Medical Faculty of Transylvania came to the unanimous conclusion, that not only the interests of the school imperiously demanded the dismissal of Dr. Cross from its Faculty, but that they could no longer consent to be associated with him. They therefore addressed him the following note, viz:-

To Professor Cross:

SIR—Circumstances having occurred relating to your private character, which will hereafter prevent us from co-operating with you as a member of the Medical Faculty of Transylvania University, we feel called on by an imperious sense of duty to the institution, to request you to send to the Board of Trustees, your resignation of the chair you hold, as speedily as possible.

We invite you to this measure, hoping that it may appear a spontaneous act of your own.

B. W. DUDLEY.

THOS. D. MITCHELL.

W. H. RICHARDSON, | ROBT. PETER.

This request, as respectful as it could be made under the circumstances, was prepared and sent to him *in as secret a manner as possible*, in the hope that he would,—as we suggested to him in the note, in a spirit of kindness,—immediately send in his resignation to the Board of Trustees as a spontaneous act of his own. In which event we mutually pledged ourselves to each other that we would never divulge the fact that his resignation had been compulsory, except in the case of some overt act of his against the school.

To this note we received no immediate answer. But we were visited individually by Judge WOOLLEY, who came on the part of Dr. Cross, and interceded for him in the strongest manner, proffering concessions, and a pledge of reform from him, as a basis of reconciliation with the Faculty. A letter was also received by Dr. DUDLEY from the Hon. H. CLAY, which is given below, in which the same proposition is made, viz: that we should cease further action against Cross on the receipt from him of a pledge of reform:*

MY DEAR SIR:

ASHLAND, 28th May, '44.

I have heard to day, for the first time, and with the deepest regret, of the difficulties which have arisen between the Medical Faculty and Dr. Cross. I cannot express to you how much I deplore them. Dr. Cross is a native of our city, a man of decided abilities, and capable of becoming useful and eminent in his profession, if he chooses. I fear he has acted indiscreetly; but if he can be saved; if he can give sufficient guarantys of his firm resolution to reform his conduct, and re-establish himself in the good opinion of his colleagues and the community, should we not endeavor to preserve him? Does not humanity require this at our hands? Does not the fact of his nativity in Lexington, and the sympathies to which that fact should give rise enjoin it upon us?

Will you allow me to request that no further steps be taken in his affair until I have an opportunity of a conference with you? I should like to see you here to-morrow morning, where we could converse freely and without interruption; but if that be not convenient, I can meet you at my office or at yours, about 12 o'clock, as may be most agreeable to you.

Dr. DUDLEY.

Your friend,

H. CLAY.

*Mr. Clay and Judge Woolley have both stated that their propositions were made on their own responsibility; but they, as honorable men, knew, and proposed, what would be necessary on the part of Cross, under the circumstances, to reinstate him with his outraged colleagues and the community.

Mr. CLAY subsequently had an interview with Dr. DUDLEY, and at his instance Dr. D. called on the other members of the Faculty. I was in his company when he went to see Drs. RICHARDSON and MITCHELL; but we were all so thoroughly convinced by long experience, of the utter baseness of the man, Cross, and of the impossibility of sustaining the school with him as an associate, that no one of the Faculty would entertain the idea of withdrawing our request to him to resign.

The feelings of Dr. RICHARDSON, his old preceptor and friend, were, as he informed me, somewhat aroused for him; but having subsequently ascertained that Cross had attempted to deceive him, in his exculpation of himself from the odium of a crime, with which the whole town was ringing, he indignantly repelled all propositions to reinstate him in the Faculty.

The imposition which he attempted to pass upon Dr. RICHARDSON, he has endeavored to foist upon the public, in his fraudulent "*confession*," on pages 60-62, of his "*Appeal*;" but Dr. RICHARDSON informed me, that although Cross might have been drunk enough on the night of Mr. CLAY's arrival in Lexington, he had learned, to his satisfaction, that the base action of which every one accused him, and of the truth of which we had *proof*, took place on a *previous occasion*.

With the ingenuity often displayed by a convicted culprit under the gallows, with the hopes of a reprieve in prospect, he makes, in his "*Appeal*," a *confession*, in which, by special pleading and bold perversions, he labors to work up into a delusive statement the damning facts which are too notorious to be contradicted, and thus endeavors to "*reconcile the circumstances*" and disarm his accusers of their plea. But the careful reader of his pamphlet, who compares its different parts with each other, will learn enough of the character of the man, even from his own production, to consider all that he says and tries most strongly to prove, as *at least very doubtful*.

The intercession in his behalf having failed, and no answer having been received from Dr. Cross, the Faculty directed the following note to be sent to him, viz:

MEDICAL HALL, Lexington, May 28, 1844.

Professor CROSS:

Sir—I am authorized and directed by the members of the Faculty who signed the paper sent to you on Saturday last, to request that you will make known your decision in the premises by Thursday at noon, of this week, in default of which, it will be their duty to lay the matter before the Board of Trustees.

By order,

THOS. D. MITCHELL, Dean.

In this note the determination of the Faculty was evident:—and Dr. Cross understood it:—they had determined, that, if he did not resign before Thursday at noon, *the whole matter should be fully investigated by the honorable Board of Trustees*.

Had Dr. Cross been an injured man, and the victim of the

enmity of some of his colleagues, or of a conspiracy, *this was the time for him to vindicate his character, in a public trial*, before a body of as honorable men as are to be found in the country. But he, better than any one else, *knew*, that to have stood an investigation before the Board of Trustees, would have utterly destroyed him; and have made matters of history and of record, those numerous acts of baseness and turpitude which his colleagues, as much as any other persons, had previously endeavored to hush up: and, therefore, his resignation came on the 29th, dated on the 28th.*

But when the resignation did come, it gave a new proof of his utter depravity. Instead of sending in a simple resignation, without an attempt to injure his late colleagues or the school,—which would have held us pledged to confine to our own knowledge the fact that he was disgracefully expelled from the Faculty,—he commenced his system of mis-representation even in his letter of resignation; by endeavoring to make it appear that he was the victim of an attempt to effect a wholesome reform in the school, and that we sent him our request after we knew he intended to resign!!

These allegations I unhesitatingly *pronounce to be false*.

It is true that Dr. Cross had just been engaged in a crusade against his colleague Dr. Bush, and had thought proper to be very abusive in his language, *on the streets*, about Dr. Dudley and others of the Faculty. But a compromise of these difficulties had been already made in the Faculty,—much to his mortification.

It is also true, that Dr. Cross had often talked of leaving the school. He made such a declaration, I am told, at the time of the death of Dr. Eberle; and when Dr. Smith resigned, before the appointment of Dr. Bartlett, he persecuted me with his pretensions to the vacant chair of the Theory and Practice, and distinctly threatened that, if he was not appointed to that chair, which, *he said*, “he was better qualified to fill than any man in the West,” he “would not any longer interest himself in the school, but would look out for another situation.”

He threatened to resign when he quarrelled with a medical student, and was smarting under the corporeal chastigation which had been administered to him.

But the tenor of his conversation, about the time of our request, was, not that *he* intended to resign, but that he would force Dr. Dudley to resign and cause the expulsion of Dr. Bush. Had we supposed that he intended to resign, we would have waited a

*His note to Mr. Clay, requesting him to discontinue his efforts in his behalf, “written at a late hour on the 28th, and sent to him at a very early hour on the morning of the 29th,” was prepared after he had received our note, informing him of our determination to lay the whole matter before the Trustees. His false plea had been already made up.

reasonable time for his action, and have received his spontaneous resignation with the greatest pleasure, *but we knew nothing of such intentions on his part*, and were imperatively forced to the performance of our disagreeable duty.

Had we been base enough to act as he would have the public believe, *we could have done so only through motives of policy*; and that policy would have caused us immediately to lay before the public the facts in relation to his expulsion. But this we did not do; for it will be seen that *we were the last to give publicity to the circumstances*.

Dr. Cross first divulged the fact of our call to Judge Woolley and others, he then exhibited it in his letter of resignation. By that letter we knew that his false plea was made up, and by that all pledges of secrecy on our part were removed. *But we did not yet publish him*.

His agent scribbler who strangely styled himself "A Friend to Lexington," published, tauntingly, the false statement in relation to his resignation; *but still we forbore*.

Immediately after his expulsion, after having joined the total abstinence society, whose pledge he had before broken once or twice, he went on his electioneering campaign; avowedly to promote the election of Mr. Clay, but really to endeavor to make for himself some character which would enable him to set at defiance the denunciatory voice of disapprobation raised by those who knew him best at Lexington.

We were informed by several physicians and others, that he, during that campaign, took occasion to injure the School, by stating that he had left it "as a rat leaves a sinking ship";—that "there was no longer any talent in it," etc.; and from what I know of the man,—from the number of persons who have given me similar information of his conduct, I was convinced, that to injure the School which had cast him off, and thus to endeavor to make it appear that *his resignation* had caused a great diminution in its class, was one of the main labors of his campaign. Still, notwithstanding all these aggressions on his part, *we allowed him yet to go unwhipped of justice*.

I and some other members of the Faculty now, had no scruples in orally relating all the facts, to students and others who enquired of them; but *no publication* was yet made of them.

Notices, commendatory of Dr. Cross, in such a manner as to reflect on the School, appeared in various papers and journals,—written, doubtless, by himself, as had been his custom, or by his agents. One gentleman, who had been particularly active in this respect, and had evidently been led astray by Cross, and from whom we expected better things, was addressed by Dr. Mitchell, in the letter which Cross says was the cause of his return from Europe. The object of this letter, to which I was privy, was to endeavor to remove from the mind of the former

pupil, by the plain statement of the facts in regard to Cross, the false impressions, which had evidently been made upon him, about his *alma mater*. It was the *only letter of the kind that*, to my knowledge, *has been formally written*; although I have, in letters to my friends, written after the campaign, made no secret of the matter.

*No publication of the expulsion of Dr. Cross, has yet been made by the Faculty or any of its members,—nor would it ever have been made had he possessed wisdom enough to avoid exposing himself in his mad efforts to injure others. So that, it is evident, the plea of Dr. Cross, that he was the victim of a conspiracy on the part of the Faculty, the Board of Trustees and the citizens of Lexington, falls to the ground of its own weight.**

In his atrocious pamphlet he has thought proper to throw the odium of his expulsion upon Dr. Dudley, against whom the vial of his gall is more especially poured out: but he, better than any one, knows that Dr. Dudley has never given him any particular cause of offence, and that he has no quarrel with him more than with any of his late colleagues. In short, the only probable motive of his selection of Dr. Dudley for his personal attack, is the greater *eclat* an *apparent contest* with Dr. D., would give him before the public.

It is not true that Dr. Dudley took the lead in calling on Dr. Cross to resign. The facts are, that Dr. Richardson, having understood that the Board of Trustees were about to take the case of Dr. C. into consideration, called on Dr. Mitchell and proposed to him, as the best mode of preventing the probable public expulsion of Dr. C., that the Faculty should request him to resign. Dr. Mitchell came to me on the subject and requested me to see Dr. Dudley, who, with us all, agreed at once to the proposition of Dr. Richardson. Dr. Dudley was, therefore, the last person in the Faculty who was informed of the proposition. The note requesting him to resign was written by myself and submitted, and was amended by Dr. Richardson by the addition of the words "touching your private character." It was signed first by

* Since the above was written, my attention was called to a remarkable passage in his letter to Mr. Clay, already referred to, as having been written "at a late hour on the 28th of May," the passage is as follows, viz: "therefore I decided after I left you to take the course which I had marked out immediately after a conversation I had on last Saturday with Drs. Mitchell and Richardson, but which I was prevented from pursuing by the reception of a letter from four of the members of the Faculty;" i. e. to resign. Truly it is very evident that liars should have good memories. He has been laboring hard to prove that the Faculty knew of his intention to resign, before they called on him, forgetting that he had informed Mr. Clay that this intention was "marked out" on Saturday, immediately after the conversation he had with Drs. M. and R. Now his conversation took place not more than fifteen minutes before the request to him was penned; for he had come into the meeting which was called for the purpose.

Dr. Dudley because he was the senior member of the Faculty, and the other members signed, as is our custom, in the order of their seniority in the school.

The reasons which urged *me* to join in the request were numerous and powerful. It would be tedious and improper to detail them all. My first acquaintance with the character of Dr. Cross was made by means of a pamphlet published by him in 1834; in which he denounced in the strongest terms of invective, Drs. Caldwell, Cooke, Yandell and Short, then Professors in Transylvania, and lauded, to the highest, the character of Dr. Dudley; of whom he remarks, page 54, "Long may he live an ornament to his profession, an honor to his species, and a blessing to mankind." Those whom he then denounced he now praises, and the then subject of his fulsome adulation, is now selected by him for the object of his most offensive vituperations!

The publication of his pamphlet in 1834, caused great indignation in the Medical Class, and they passed unanimously, and published, some strong resolutions in which he was exposed as a slanderer and a falsifier. The Medical Society cited him to trial, gave him due notice, and on his failing to appear, expelled him, for cogent reasons entered on its records.

As a proof of the great popularity of Dr. Cross with the Medical Classes, of which he so much boasts, I will state, that after his election to a chair in Transylvania, his friends made an annual effort, in the Medical Society, to *expunge this record*, and without success for several years: at last, by a small majority, it was expunged; but a rally of members took place on the next meeting, as I have been informed, *and it was restored*. How it terminated I do not know, for from feelings of delicacy towards a colleague, I carefully abstained from taking any part in the regular business of the Society.

The election of Dr. Cross to a chair in Transylvania, took place against the strong opposition of a number of the friends of the school who *knew him*; among whom were some of the Trustees. He has stated that he was importuned to come into the school, but the general impression was, he made a spontaneous offer of himself.

The conduct of Dr. Cross, as a Professor, was to the utmost degree, disagreeable and unbecoming. Afflicted with a morbid vanity, which verges on monomania, and an ever-burning and unscrupulous ambition of the most invidious kind, he was never happy except when the subject of direct adulation. Nor did he scruple to denounce his colleagues; all of whom have, in his sober or his intemperate moments, been depreciated by him, either on the streets or in the Lecture-room. This could have been borne, had he honestly and truly labored in his chair to aid the cause of Medical Science and sustain the School. But in this he lamentably failed: for not only was his course, on the "Insti-

tutes," imperfect and unscientific,—consisting more of an attempt to set up certain unsatisfactory speculative views, which he called "*his own*"; but, in his eagerness to gain applause, and his desire to amass money, he entirely forgot what was due to his colleagues and to the Institution in which he was a teacher.

When he came into the Lecture-room, or into the "green-room" during the examination of candidates, *so intoxicated that he was barely able to sustain himself*,—as he often did,—the dignity and utility of the Professor, and the honor of the School, were certainly sunk in the inebriate.

When he descended to the level of a *maker and vender of a nostrum*, known as *Cross's Specific for Gonorrhœa*, etc., and when he openly exhibited in the Faculty-room, to some of his mortified colleagues, ten half eagles which he said he had received for a quantity of it, which could not have cost him more than fifty cents! he forfeited all claims on them as an honorable man and a scientific physician.

A physician *may* be excusable who keeps secret from the profession, for his own emolument, a *new discovery* in his art, to which he has attained by much labor and expenditure of money; but even this would be sinning against the liberal canons of science and of medicine. But the *nostrum* of Dr. Cross was *no discovery, no improvement*; and was utterly inexcusable, being merely an *imposition* upon the credulity of the public which his elevated station enabled him successfully to make.

Some of this preparation having been brought to me, for analysis, by Dr. Darby, I was enabled to ascertain, by a careful examination, that it consisted of nothing but pump-water, containing, in each ounce, a minute quantity of Corrosive Sublimate, (about 1·4 or 1·8 grain), and 30 or 40 drops of Nitric Acid, flavored with a little Benzoic Acid;—a mixture, which his preceptor Dr. Richardson informed us was one of his shop prescriptions, which Cross must have got in his office during his pupilage!

The origin of the enmity which is expressed by Dr. Cross against Drs. Dudley and Bush, is difficult to ascertain; but it became more particularly manifested during his hours of *excitement*, after his rencontre with the medical student, and after the presentation, by the members of the Medical Class, of a splendid piece of plate to Dr. Bush, as an evidence of their esteem for him as a teacher of Anatomy and as a man.

On the occasion of his unfortunate quarrel with the student, who happened to be an office-pupil of Drs. Dudley and Bush, he openly accused those two gentlemen of having incited the attack; but when he was required by the Faculty to bring his proofs before them, it is a matter of record, that after a fruitless effort, he was obliged to acknowledge that he "*had no evidence on which even to base a suspicion*" against them, and, *as he expressed it*, "he was happy to withdraw the charge." Notwithstanding this, he reiterates the charge in his "Appeal"!

For several winters, while Dr. Bush was very acceptably performing the duties of Adjunct Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, the class had spontaneously passed resolutions highly commendatory of his course and conduct; but when they thought proper to manifest their approbation by the presentation of a costly piece of plate, with an inscription, the spleen of Dr. Cross got the better of his judgment, and he made remarks in relation to it which gave at once an index to his thoughts, and to his invidious and envious disposition.

Not very long after this, he commenced his crusade against Dr. Bush, in his endeavor to expel him from the school, and his open attempt to injure the character and standing of Dr. Dudley. Whether he would, *in his sober senses*, have taken such a preposterous course, which could only lead to injury to himself and to all concerned, may be doubted; but blinded by his vanity, and maddened by his habits of drinking, he threw himself into the arena, determined to prove that Cross was the greatest man in the West,—greater than Dr. Dudley at least,—or die in the contest!

After having industriously spread misrepresentations in the minds of all with whom he had to do, about the character of Dr. Bush as a teacher of Anatomy, and dilated on the propriety of forcing Dr. Dudley to resign one of his chairs, one of his agents commenced a series of articles in the public prints, over the name of "A Friend to Lexington," in which, with a thousand mis-statements injurious to the school and its professors, those points were openly and coarsely contended for. Cross, who had been a *short time* absent in the East, speedily returned, and at once entered with all his soul into the warfare. He ostensibly contended that Dr. Dudley ought to resign one of his chairs, and that some distinguished professor from the East should be called to the chair of anatomy; but we who understood him, knew that his real object was the expulsion of Dr. Bush.

He succeeded finally in passing a resolution in the Faculty, that Dr. Dudley be requested to resign one of his chairs, or that he be invited to give his views on the subject at the next meeting. Before the time for the next meeting arrived, Dr. Richardson, having perhaps seen that he had been misled in relation to Dr. Bush, made to me, as a basis of a compromise, the following proposition, with the request that I should see Dr. Dudley and get his views on the subject, viz:

That, in view of the fact, that Dr. Bush, as the adjunct of Dr. Dudley, occupied a station in which it was difficult for him to show the full extent of his abilities as a teacher, he proposed, that on the ensuing winter Dr. Bush should lecture six times a week instead of three, and Dr. Dudley six times instead of nine;—that the whole subject of anatomy should be confided to Dr. Bush, and that he should stand or fall, in the school, on his success as a teacher that winter.

To this proposition Dr. Dudley agreed, and the compromise was, as we supposed, made. The meeting was held according to appointment, and the resolution of the last meeting was read. I had taken pains to induce Dr. Dudley to attend the Faculty meeting, in hopes that the compromise would be fully established, and peace be restored in the Faculty. But what were my disgust and mortification to find that the blustering Dr. Cross,—he who “was a greater man than Dr. Dudley” on the streets, and who threatened to *make him resign* one or both of his chairs in the school, was, in the presence of Dr. Dudley *as mute and apparently as meek as a mouse!!* Determined that the opportunity for a thorough explanation between the parties should not be lost, I was actually obliged, in consequence of the temporary aphonia of the boasting Professor, to detail to Dr. Dudley and the meeting the propositions and statements of Dr. Cross and his partizans.

In answer to the resolution, and in view of the proposition for a compromise which he had cordially accepted, Dr. Dudley, after stating the fact that he had for several years divided equally with Dr. Bush the proceeds of his chair, while he had labored, as he thought, with his utmost ability for the good of the school, concluded by the statement, that under the circumstances, he did not feel himself authorized to resign one of his chairs at that time.

What did the magniloquent Dr. Cross? Meekly as a whipped cur he handed in, without a word of explanation, a resolution, which I believe was passed, “*that things remain in statu quo*”!

Every one supposed that the Professor was satisfied, but behold!—the next issue of the “*Inquirer*” brought another of the lugubrious articles of the “*Friend to Lexington*,” in which was a garbled and distorted account of this Faculty meeting. A meeting at which none but the Faculty were present, and the proceedings of which were known to none but them. This publication at once identified Dr. Cross with the nefarious and slanderous publications which had done so much injury to the institution; proved him a traitor to the school, and showed that, notwithstanding the apparent compromise, and his subdued and humble manner at the Faculty meeting, he was still determined to go on with his incendiary war.

These facts, with many others, when capped by a notorious act, on his part, about this time, to which his own imperfect and extorted “*Confessions*” give a slight clue, weighed down the scale of justice against him. We could no longer be associated with him. I came to the deliberate opinion that the amputation of the diseased member was imperiously demanded to save the life of the body corporate, and, with the rest of the Faculty, joined heartily in the proposition of Dr. Richardson to call on him to resign.

Knowing these facts, the pamphlet of Dr. Cross will be under-

stood in its proper light. His dearest wish at present is to injure Transylvania, as is evinced by his republication of the stale and time-damned slanders against her, which *he well knows to be such*:—his wildest hope is to conceal his own nefarious conduct in the glare of an apparent contest with Dr. Dudley and the school. But we will not be drawn into a controversy.

The friends of the school are assured, that at no point in her history has she offered such strong claims upon their patronage, as she does at present. Dr. Bush, who has been so basely and unfeelingly slandered, has the entire confidence of his colleagues, and has fully sustained himself, during the two winters since his appointment to the chair of Anatomy, as an able and useful Professor; while that department has been still further strengthened by the appointment of Dr. E. L. Dudley, as Demonstrator of Anatomy, who, in addition to his attention to private dissections, gives a regular course on Anatomy, to which he will next winter add the subject of Minor Surgery.

The cordial acceptance, on the part of Dr. Bartlett, of his old chair of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the school, and the unanimous appointment of Professor Annan to that of Obstetrics, complete the organization of the Faculty.

The present healthy condition of the Transylvania Medical School, and its known most flattering prospects, have doubtless aided in bringing the disgraced and disgraceful Ex-Professor to that point of desperation, which made him blind enough, and mad enough, to give to the world his inconsistent, false and slanderous "Appeal."

That he has denounced not only the Medical Faculty, but also the Board of Trustees of Transylvania University, as well as the citizens of Lexington in general, with a few choice exceptions, is proof, that he, and this large and enlightened body of people, *have an irreconcilable difference of opinion in relation to his statements*:—if he is right, *they* are all either *knaves* or a set of base subservient tools unworthy to exercise the rights of citizenship. But if *they* are right, *he* is a being whose measure of baseness and depravity has rarely been equalled in modern history.

ROBT. PETER.





